

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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May 21, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of an indictment¹ charging Bruno Vassallo with one count of possessing child pornography. The indictment alleges that Vassallo possessed these images on a USB external hard drive.

This indictment is the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and arose out of "Operation Emissary," a nationwide operation targeting Internet consumers of child pornography. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Morgan-Kelly. Vassallo faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

| NAME | ADDRESS | AGE |
|----------------|-------------|-----|
| Bruno Vassallo | Ivyland, PA | 30 |

COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae

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¹An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.